

# WELCOME TO AN SCHOLAR FOOTBALL CAMP 2016

Greenville, Pennsylvania – 75 players, managers, and coaching staff from Kwansei Gakuin High School of Japan participated in the region's first international football camp organized by the American Scholar Group from July 22nd – 31st, 2016.

The Kwansei Gakuin fighters attended 'two-a-day' training sessions and clinics ran by the Greenville High School football coaching staff. They also took trips to places significant to the sport, from attending the Pittsburgh Steelers training camp, to visiting the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio and Ohio State University's Les Wexner football complex.

Most excitingly, the 18 time national high school football champions of Japan made history by playing in Pennsylvania's first international high school game against local players from the Pennsylvania Northwest and Southwest high school All-Star teams on Friday, July 29th, 2016 at GHS' football stadium. It was a hard fought game that featured excellent plays and standout performances from players on both sides.

As a memento, we present this photobook for you to reflect on these special moments! It was a pleasure meeting all of you and we hope to see you again in the future!

Thank you,

American Scholar Group









7/23

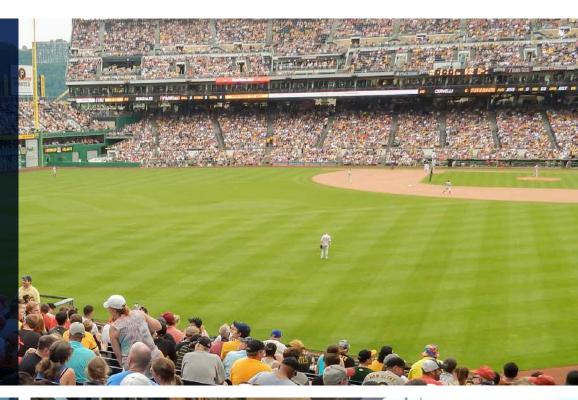
#### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Pittsburgh Pirates Pro Baseball Game



















**EVENT STATS** 

**NAME:** Pro Football Hall of Fame

**LOCATION:** Canton, Ohio

FOUNDED: 1963

**FUN FACT:** Canton, Ohio is the

birthplace of the National Football League (NFL), which was originally named the American Professional Football Association.

















#### **EVENT STATS**

**NAME:** The Les Wexner Football Complex

**LOCATION:** In the Woody Hayes Athletic

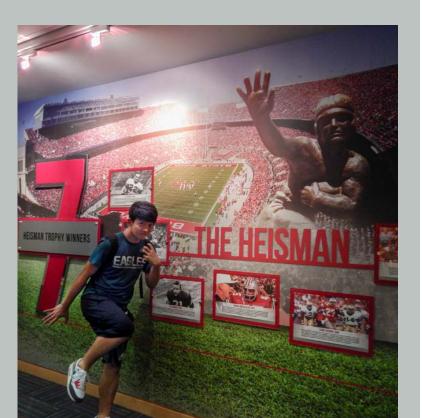
Center on Ohio State University Campus in Columbus, Ohio

**DEDICATED:** 1987 to Woody Hayes

**FUN FACT:** Aside from being a training

facility, this building is also home to a museum where championship trophies and memorabilia are

displayed.







## 7/25 & 26



Dinner and
American English
Lessons at Thiel College











Thiel College - Interactive American English lessons were taught by Susan Amarose and Nancy Lewandowkski in a contextual football theme.





















**OCATION:** Ligonier, Pennsylvania

**BUILT:** 1758

**FUN FACTS:** Built during the French and

Indian War, the fort served as a staging area for the Forbes Expedition of 1758. During the eight years of its existence as a garrison, Fort Ligonier was never captured by an enemy. It was decommissioned from active service in 1766.





### TRAINING CHAMPIONS

Pittsburgh Steelers Training Camp



#### **EVENT STATS**

**NAME:** Pittsburgh Steelers Training Camp

**LOCATION:** Saint Vincent College

Latrobe, Pennsylvania

**SINCE**: 1967

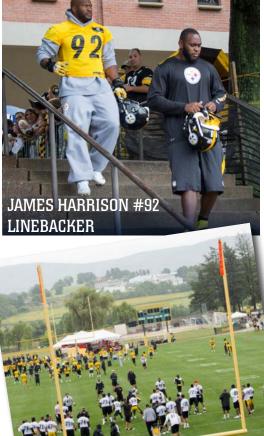
**FUN FACT:** The Pittsburgh Steelers are 6 time

Super Bowl Champions, that is more than any other team in the National Football League (NFL).





















The KG Fighters participated in friendly touch football scrimmage with members of the Greenville High School Football team.







## GAIVIE DAY

KWANSEI GAKUIN HIGH FIGHTERS

WESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
ALL-STARS

#### **JAPAN**

JULY 29TH, 2016 7:00 PM

#### USA

GREENVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



## The Herald

Friday, July 29, 2016

#### FOOTBALL, COUPLED WITH CULTURE, COMES TO GREENVILLE

GREENVILLE – Often, summertime high school football games are little more than glorified exhibitions; scrimmages, if you will.

But tonight's tilt on the turf at Greenville High's Stewart Field will be staged straight up – touchdowns, officials, down-and-distance chains, scoreboard clock — though it will be much more than a football game. It also will serve as an educational cultural exchange.



Osaka, Japan's Kwansei Gakuin High, the country's 18-time national champions, will take on a western Pennsylvania all-star squad, beginning at 7 p.m. at Snyder-Stone Stadium.

"Even though there's

a language barrier ... once we get on the field, everything will be fine. The Skype calls and all the other stuff is just hard. But once it comes down to football it's simple, it's universal. It is (a language in and of itself)," summarized Greenville Coach Steve Lewis.

The KG contingent has been in Greenville for a week, part of American Scholar Group's camp. The 60-plus-player team has been introduced to a USA scholastic football summer staple – 2-a-day practices – in preparation for tonight's game, which is admission free and open to the public.

"The biggest take-away they want is to experience and fully understand American football," KG Head Coach Mr. Nakao said through interpreter and team manager Sam Lee. " ... To come here and experience – from the 'Motherland' of football – what football is. So this whole program has been very beneficial for them

"Our way of playing in Japan is a lot of passing, motion kind of offense," Nakao explained via Lee. "But coming to Greenville, we've been taught about power offense in the traditional face-up and no back-up kind of offense. They have learned that this week, and they hope to implement this move during the game itself."

So from whom better to learn the toss-power? That has been part of the Trojans' tradition under the tutelage of the men for whom the stadium is named – Ed Snyder and Bob Stone – and current Head Coach Brian Herrick.

Tonight's game is the culmination of a year-long project spearheaded by Greenville graduate Benedict Ho, son of ASG founder David Ho. The younger Ho networked with Lee, as well as Southern California native Kevin Jackson – who has spent the last 11 years in Japan and plays in the Japanese Professional League after spending time in the Green Bay Packers' camp – to bring the concept to fruition.

Lewis related, "The first Skype call I had with them, basically I said, 'We'll open our arms to you, we'll do whatever you want; whatever type of training you want, we'll provide. And they said, 'No, no, no. We want what you do for your kids – two-a-days.' So that's what we're givin' them: More old-school, physical, high-intensity football. That's what they want ... that's what they're doin'

"We're trying to make it as enjoyable and complete of an experience as we can, and the kids and coaches from Japan are just awesome!" Lewis allowed.

During a morning practice session earlier this week, Ho said of Team KG: "These guys are a highly, highly disciplined bunch. I feel like if the coaches say, 'Hey, suit up and run into a wall,' they'd do it. They are highly synchronized, and that's what sets them apart, and this is going to be their advantage (today). They play very well as a team.

"They try to win on the chalkboard. They prepare, prepare, prepare – and execute. Maybe one thing they lack and we're trying to teach them is to play more physical – you know, like just

beating your man on the line.

"There is a size disadvantage on the Japanese side. But what they lack in size they're gonna make up for it in teamwork and heart." Ho said.

Lee, speaking for himself, observed, "Impressive. The teachers and the coaches are very impressive at Greenville.

"The facilities, hospitality, the friendship, the town – everything's so clean, it's unbelievable! Unlike whatever we've heard about the U.S.." he added with a chuckle.

The game will include four 12-minute quarters, officiated by a local crew courtesy of Mercer's Steve Hoover, Lewis said. The only deviation will be no kickoffs; however, there will be punting and punt-returns, Lewis noted.

Mr. Nakao matriculated to Kwansei University approximately 13 years ago, where he was a member of a perennial power – "how I understand it, they are the Notre Dame of Japan," Ho said regarding Kwansei U. and its football program.



While it will be a win-win for both teams – a concept this country appreciates – the game will be seriously staged as a competitive contest.

Jackson, fluent in Japanese

– "it depends on what we're
talkin' about; if it's football,

then I'm at home" – and serving as a consultant for Team KG, forecasted:

"It's gonna be a good game. These kids definitely are a bit smaller than an American team," the former University of Hawaii 6-foot-5 defensive end/outside linebacker said. "They play a good brand of football. They really value teamwork, and technique, execution – they're a disciplined bunch. I think it should be fun."

By ED FARRELL Herald Assistant Sports Editor









## ACTION FROM THE SIDELINES & HALFTIME







KIINAN =







SHARONHERALD.COM

#### The Herald

Sharon, Pennsylvania

Saturday, July 30, 2016

#### WESTERN PA. ALL-STAR TEAM EDGES 18-TIME NATIONAL CHAMPS FROM JAPAN

GREENVILLE – With NFL training camps commencing and the College Football Playoffs future dates being discussed, there's no bad time of the year for football. Even in late July – whether you're playing in your hometown for the final time, or thousands of miles from your homeland in hopes of learning more about the game.

With that serving as the backdrop, the Kwansei Gakuin High football team – Japan's national champions – journeyed to Greenville, Pennsylvania, United States of America for a week of practices. Their visit culminated in a game against a western Pennsylvania all-star team Friday night.

For the record, the all-stars prevailed, 17-15, at Snyder-Stone Stadium. However it was a win-win for both squads on several levels.

That was demonstrated following the final horn, when the entire Fighters squad stood along the home sideline, shoulder to shoulder, and led by their captain, linebacker Yosuke Sugano, silently bowed in respect and acknowledgment of their hots. There also was some good-natured chanting at midfield shared by both beaming squads, obviously enjoying the moment.

"The kids from Japan, the whole group from Japan, just phenomenal all week," gushed Greenville's Mike Menold who served as the western Pennsylvania

stars' head coach. "The energy, the excitement, the way they practice — just phenomenal!

"We were hopin' to play our physical brand of football, but they really didn't allow us," Menold continued. "I was impressed with their determination and the fact they were able to stop our power run game."

The 1st half's lone score occurred on a 28-yard pass play from Harbor Creek quarterback Brandon Fox to McDowell's Matt Kelly less than 2 full minutes into the 2nd stanza. The Slippery Rock University-bound Kelly – who is planning to compete as a track & field decathlete – out-leaped KG defender Keita Konishi in the end zone. Casey Eells kicked the conversion.

In the 3rd quarter Eells etched a 26-yard field goal, then his former Trojans' teammate Hunter Hause had a 1-yard run with 13.1 ticks to play in the period, providing a seemingly safe 17-0 all-stars' margin.

Fox (12 of 19 pass attempts for 126 yards passing and 80 yards rushing) and New Castle running back Daylyn Glenel (72 yards rushing on 7 carries, including 35- and 32-yard jaunts) led the western Pennsylvania offense. Fox's top targets were Kelly (4 receptions, 74 yards) and Cathedral Prep's Adam Valero (6-37).

Greenville's Gage Gladysz started under center for western Pa., but sustained a 1st-quarter shoulder injury and was relegated to booming punts for the game's duration.

Kwansei Gakuin starting signal-caller Hiroto Hiyashi sustained a sprained left elbow late in the 1st half and did not return. His replacement, Kosei Okuno, collaborated on a 36-yard pass play with Gaku Eukuhara. Okuno then scored the Fighters' TD on a 4-yard run, followed by Kai Mimura's PAT, drawing the visitors within 17-7 with 9:26 remaining.

The sequence was set up by Konishi's interception of a Fox pass.

Greenville grad Ben Reiser's interception of Okuno's 4th-and-16 pass with 2:02 halted a drive after the Fighters had driven to the all-stars' 28-yard line.

But KG garnered a second score as time expired on Okuno's 1-yard run and subsequent 2-point conversion pass as time expired.

"They fought back, and it was a good game. We didn't think they were gonna come out and do that," Glenel observed. "But that's a great team over there, a great group of guys, great coaching staff over there.

"They were really fast and there were a lot of surprises – trick plays," added Glenel, who was playing with a painful toe injury.

Menold expressed some surprise at KG's physicality.

"Not because of lack of effort. All week they were gettin' after it – very physical. But it's just not the style they play," Menold assessed. "But I think some of the things that they learned during the week helped them defend us, which is a credit to them, absolutely!



"I thought our defense was outstanding all night; unfortunately we gave them the ball in positions that we wouldn't have liked at the end there," Menold continued. "I thought (Greenville grad) Jacob Morgan played very well, and (Grove City grad) Tanner Lucido had a phenomenal game, as well."

While the visitors' week-long trip concluded and they will return to Japan, scholastic football in western Pennsylvania for the 2016 season is mere weeks away.

"I hope it's this cool in August, but I'm sure it won't be," Menold said with a smile from Stewart Field's turf after a late-afternoon quelled the humidity.

By ED FARRELL Herald Assistant Sports Editor





Both the KG and Western Pennsylvania teams were given a commemorative certificate in honor of the exhibition match.









The evening ended with a nice surprise for the teams, as the game was featured on the 11:00 PM news at 21 News WFMJ

















#### **AMERICAN SCHOLAR GROUP**

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